

THE , COMMISSION , OF , FINE , ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

May 18, 1982

AM

10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: July 13, 1982
September 14, 1982

- B. Approval of April 21, 1982 minutes of the
Commission of Fine Arts

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

CFA 18/MAY/82-7, Old Post Office, 12th and
Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., restudy of Pennsyl-
vania Avenue facade.

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 18/MAY/82-1, Apex Building renovation
and addition project, 7th and Pennsylvania
Avenue, N. W., preliminary review.
2. CFA 18/MAY/82-2, Presidential Building
addition, between 11th and 12th Streets,
N. W., behind Evening Star Building,
preliminary review.

C. Gallaudet College

CFA 18/MAY/82-3, Northwest Campus, renovation,
site plan changes, landscape plan, 17th & Kalmia
Road, N. W. at Rock Creek Park, (formerly the
Majorie Webster Jr. College campus).

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of
Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 82- , Embassy of Japan, 2520
Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., proposed
addition, revised designs.
- b. S.L. 82- , NS&T Bank, 15th and New York
Avenue, N. W., preliminary plans for
renovation of landmark structure.
- c. S.L. 82-67, Apartment Building, new
construction, 2110 F Street, N. W.,
preliminary review.
- d. S.L. 82-69, Commodore Hotel, 520 North
Capitol Street, N. W., alteration and
renovation.
- e. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 82-57, 1220 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.,
material selection.
- b. Appendix II.

E. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

CFA 18/MAY/82-4, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Distinguished Service Medal.

F. National Park Service

- 1. CFA 18/MAY/82-5, Motion II, sculpture display
in National Park by private citizen.
- 2. CFA 18/MAY/82-6, Lincoln Memorial, addition of
state names Hawaii and Alaska.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNERS</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 82-48	2400 N Street, N.W. Madana Realty Co.	New Construction.
ACTION: Preliminary building designs are approved. Final approval will be subject to further study and refinement of the juncture of the curved facade and the penthouse, particularly the plans of the columns and trim bands. Full review and approval by the Commission of Fine Arts will be required of final designs, working drawings, and material samples prior to issuance of the building permit.		
S.L. 82-60	2117 E Street, N.W. Leo M. & Richard D. Bernstein	Renovation of lobby & first floor corridor, renovation of bldg. facade and repaving sidewalk.
ACTION: Issue permit for renovation of apartment building and canopy replacement.		
S.L. 82-63	550 C Street, S.W. Holiday Inn Corp.	Erect canopy attached to bldg. & projecting over sidewalk.
ACTION: Issue permit for brown canopy.		
S.L. 82-64	1716 G Street, N.W. Federal Home Loan Bank Bldg.	Install signs.
Action: Issue permit for sign labled "B" <u>only</u> , as shown on drawings dated 22 April 1982. The overall square footage of both signs together exceeds the maximum of 25 square feet as allowed by code.		
S.L. 82-65	520 North Capitol Street, N.W. Steven H. Bernstein	Temporary construction fence & covered walk.
ACTION: Issue permit.		

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNERS</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 82-57	1220 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	New store bldg.
HPA. 82-218	W. Bell and Co.	

ACTION: Issue permit for new store building. Sample red-range brick and mortar panel shall be erected on site for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to erection of finish walls. This approval does not cover sign, which shall conform to 25 square foot code requirement and shall be submitted to and approved by the Commission as a separate sign permit application. "Exposed rear and side walls shall be face brick to match front."

O.G. 82-59	3036 P Street, N.W.	Alteration and stucco removal.
HPA. 82-222		

ACTION: Do not issue permit for the removal of stucco and exposure of brick. The Board recommends restoration of the stucco surface as the inspected brick work is too severely deteriorated for restoration as a suitable exterior finish. The Board also notes that because this is one of a pair of twin stucco houses, a change in material would be inappropriate.

O.G. 82-65	3422 Dent Place, N.W.	Build wood deck over existing
HPA. 82-245	Gloria Hidalgo	metal roof.

ACTION: Request additional information. Design information and presentation are insufficient. The Board requests accurate and clear drawings be submitted for review and approval. It is recommended that the deck be pulled forward from the rear of the roof and that the railings be kept off the parapet and within the confines of the roof to minimize visibility. An accurate drawing or photograph of the railing should be presented. In addition, it is suggested that the applicant make a study of access onto the proposed deck from the attic.

O.G. 82-66	1083 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Install single faced sign as
HPA. 82-251	Agile Printing Co.	per plan.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. The Board recommends a restudy of the design in compliance with Code and that there be one sign only.

O.G. 82-67	3123-25 M Street, N.W.	Install A/C unit.
HPA. 82-205	Hamburger Hamlet	

ACTION: Request additional information. Equipment in this location is not approved unless screened from the alley and painted a neutral color. Submit clear drawings showing proposed screen.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNBER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNERS</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 82-68	3622-24-26 Prospect Street, N.W.	Hold rear yard decks
HPA. 82-252	Mr. William G. McGowan	3 feet from prop. lines.

ACTION: Issue permit for the three foot set-back of decks as shown on plan dated 11 May 1982.

O.G. 82-69	1054 31st Street, N.W.	New signage, tenant work.
HPA. 82-255	Paul Fronich	

ACTION: Request further study of this conceptual submission. The Board suggest that the sign on M Street be limited to 25 square feet and the proposed banners be eliminated. The Board recommends that the basement entrance canopy on 31st Street be restudied so as not to obstruct the existing first floor windows. It is also suggested that new canopies be of the same style as the "Scan" and alley canopies. A special exception for the proposed sidewall sign is not recommended.

O.G. 82-70	3222 M Street, N.W.	Pool on residential deck.
HPA. 82-256	Georgetown Park Associates	

ACTION: Issue permit for residential pool as conforming to conceptual approval and drawings dated 6 May 1982.

O.G. 82-74	3125 P Street, N.W.	Alterations & repair & new
HPA. 82-267	James C. Hise	construction.

ACTION: Issue permit for alterations and new construction as shown on drawings dated 7 May 1982. Request applicant erect a brick and mortar sample for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts.

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MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

18 May 1982

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. John S. Chase
Hon. Sondra G. Myers
Hon. Walter A. Netsch
Hon. Alan Novak
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present:

Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings, approved as : 13 July 1982
14 September 1982
- B. Minutes of meeting of 21 April 1982, approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

CFA 18/MAY/82-7, Old Post Office, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., restudy of Pennsylvania Avenue facade. The Secretary reported that this submission represented a reconsideration of the project in

light of the recommendations made by the Commission at its April meeting. He introduced Jerry Shiplett from GSA who reviewed the Commission's criticism of the way the glass pavilion on 11th Street and the restaurant terraces on the Pennsylvania Avenue facade affected the architecture of the Old Post Office building. He showed new drawings reflecting the changes that had been made. The 11th Street space was a simple paved area, furnished with umbrellas, tables and chairs; there were trees around the perimeter, much like the interim plan the Commission had seen previously (July 1981). On Pennsylvania Avenue the restaurant terraces had been removed; there were several tables and umbrellas outside and some additional planting, and a dining area had been added off the entrance portico with new doors giving access to the restaurants inside. Architect Charles Izzo from Benjamin Thompson Associates then answered some questions from the members, including one about the need for awnings inside the entrance portico. He said they had been placed there to add a festive atmosphere, but it was suggested that this be achieved by some other means--perhaps lights or banners--rather than erecting awnings in an area already covered. Other than this recommendation, the members all considered the changes a great improvement and the project was unanimously approved. (Exhibit A)

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 18/MAY/82-1, Apex Building renovation and addition project, 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., preliminary review. The Assistant Secretary located this five-story 19th-century building, pointing out the site for the large Westminster Development Corporation project just to the east, the proposed new office building on Indiana Avenue to the north, and the Market Square-Navy Memorial development to the west. He introduced architect George Hartman to discuss his plans for the remodeling of this and two other small historic buildings adjacent to it on Pennsylvania Avenue, as well as for adding an additional floor to the Apex Building and constructing an infill building between it and the two small buildings.

Mr. Hartman showed both 19th century and current views of the buildings, to show how and where the buildings have deteriorated. The Apex Building, formerly the Central National Bank Building, was erected c. 1860, although the towers, west facade, and interior remodeling were the work of A. B. Mullett in 1885. Mr. Hartman said the exterior materials, especially the brownstone on the north facade, would receive the extensive restoration needed, and the ground floor openings put back as they were in 1885. The interior, largely destroyed, would be re-designed for restaurant use on the basement and ground floors with offices above. A sixth floor would be added, concealed by a balustrade designed in character with the Mullett work. The small buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue, one of which housed the studios of photographer Matthew Brady, were built in 1855. They would also undergo extensive exterior renovation and restoration. Deteriorating stucco would be removed from the facade

of No. 627 and shopfronts restored; in the rear original fenestration would be put back. Mr. Hartman said the original interior fabric had been removed for the most part, but anything of value would be kept. Retail space would occupy the ground floor with offices above.

Mr. Hartman then described the infill building which would join the Apex and small Pennsylvania Avenue buildings. It would be constructed on the site of a previous building which burned some years ago and would provide an entrance lobby and core facilities for all the historic structures. It would be sympathetic in design to these buildings. All buildings would be painted a buff stone color with darker trim. Service would be through the Westminster project.

The Chairman and several of the other members were bothered by the pitch of the gable roof on the infill structure. Mr. Hartman said the removal of a cooling tower behind would necessitate its redesign in any case, so he would make some new studies. He said he had been striving for a "cap" effect at the top of the building. The Chairman suggested that perhaps a true pediment might look better than the "shed type" roof shown. There were no other comments, and the preliminary design was approved with the provision that the gable roof be restudied.

(Exhibit B)

2. CFA 18/MAY/82-2, Presidential Building addition, between 11th and 12th Streets, N. W., behind the Evening Star Building; preliminary review. Staff member Jeffrey Carson located this infill building just north of the Star annex on 11th Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street. He noted that the site was part of the Presidential Building property, with the street level occupied by service and parking access to the building. He recalled that the Commission had recently seen a design for this site as part of the Star Building renovation and addition, but said it was now being developed by the owner of the Presidential Building and a different architect. He then introduced architect Frank Schlesinger to discuss his design.

Mr. Schlesinger said that as the floor levels for the buildings on either side were different, he had decided to deal with the fenestration in a vertical manner and so avoid an uneven line of windows in the three buildings. The three vertical rows of windows, actually French doors, were placed within the three "steps" of a shallow projection from the main body of the building. The projection began at the cornice line of the Star Annex and stepped down to that of the lower Harrington Hotel to the north. Mr. Schlesinger said he had used this device to mediate between the two building heights; it would also have the advantage of bringing some north light to these floors. Terraces were shown at the top of each step. Drawings showed each bay of the north elevation, above the Harrington Hotel, filled in with glass block. Mr. Schlesinger said he had used this because he expected it would ultimately become a party wall and because the views from that side were not particularly attractive.

The members, with the exception of Mr. Chase, were not happy with the facade treatment and the asymmetrical stepped effect, and they asked Mr. Schlesinger to restudy the 11th Street facade. The project was not approved. (Exhibit C)

C. Gallaudet College

CFA 18/MAY/82-3, Northwest Campus; renovation, site plan changes and landscape plan; 17th and Kalmia Road, N. W. at Rock Creek (formerly the Marjorie Webster Junior College campus). Mr. Carson related Gallaudet's need for an additional campus to accommodate 400-500 children whose deafness was the result of a rubella outbreak in the mid-1960's. He said the college planned to keep the buildings already on the site and repair and renovate them as necessary. The only exterior modifications would be to roads and parking facilities, and the addition of new landscaping material.

Kenneth Parkinson, counsel for Gallaudet, stressed the need to begin renovation as early as possible so that the campus could open in the Fall of 1983. Mary Anne Miller, landscape architect, described the new road which would link the Kalmia Road and 17th Street entrances and provide handicapped access to the buildings; she also discussed the redesign of existing parking lots to improve efficiency, as well as the addition of one new lot. She said there would also be minor changes in the yard to solve drainage difficulties. The members asked Ms. Miller several questions about the access road and the siting and screening of the new parking lot, but there were no objections to the plan and it was unanimously approved. (Exhibit D)

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 82-71, Embassy of Japan, 2520 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., proposed addition, revised designs. The Assistant Secretary recalled the preliminary approval given in March 1982 to the general massing of the building, and the request at that time to restudy the fenestration in an attempt to avoid the over-scaled, institutional look. Several representatives from the Japanese Embassy were introduced as were two members of the architectural firm, Benham Group East, Inc. Mr. Sakei, one of the architects, reviewed the purpose of the new construction and showed revised elevation studies for the facades. These showed smaller, more residential style windows, including dormers at the top floor. Mr. Sakei said the apparent height of the building had been lowered to maintain the dominance of the original embassy building. He noted that very little change had been made to the lower section fronting on Massachusetts Avenue. Mr. Netsch asked what the

roof material would be, and Mr. Sakei said a decision had not yet been made, although he expected it would be slate or ceramic tile. The Chairman suggested that using a typical silver-grey Japanese roof tile might provide a subtle link to Eastern architectural style. He also suggested, as he had at the March meeting, that if limestone were used it should be a slightly darker color than that used for the original building. There were no further questions and the project was unanimously approved.

b. S.L. 82-66, NS&T Bank, 15th and New York Avenue, N. W., preliminary plans for renovation of landmark structure. Mr. Carson briefed the members on the history of this National Register building, a Category II landmark in the District. It was designed in 1888 by James Windrim of Philadelphia; additions were made to the east in 1915 and 1924 in the same style. He said the current submission was for filling in the courtyard and adding a story to give additional office space. He introduced architect A. H. Jeffries of Weihe, Black, Jeffries, Strassman and Dove, who showed a model of the proposed construction. In answer to a question, he said the skylight over the main banking room, one of the outstanding features of the building, would remain but would be artificially lit.

The main concern of the members was the visibility of the additional story, especially from the Treasury building. They were concerned that it might be especially visible from the corner, where it would show behind the turret. It was suggested that the corner be chamfered and that 2x4's be erected on the roof simulating the height of the proposed construction to test its visibility. No action was taken pending the result of this mock-up.

c. S.L. 82-67, Apartment building, new construction, 2110 F Street, N. W.; preliminary review. Mr. Carson located the site, in the Foggy Bottom-George Washington University area, and noted that the building would be erected next to another apartment recently approved by the Commission and designed by Arthur Cotton Moore. He introduced architect David Schwartz, who said the function of the building had been changed and it would now be used for doctors' offices. He said adequate underground parking would be provided. In discussing the design he said he had tried to keep it in harmony with the rest of the neighborhood, an area characterized by many architectural styles and a preponderance of light colored brick. He expected the materials would be limestone, stucco and red brick. Mr. Netsch questioned the use of a glass curtain wall in the center of the F Street facade; Mr. Schwartz said he thought it added interest to what would otherwise be an average punched window building. Mr. Netsch observed that such large expanses of glass tend to contribute to a cluttered look, because of the variety of window treatment--curtains, blinds, etc.--and the visibility of furniture. The Chairman was concerned that the way the three different materials were used might produce a more horizontal

feeling and jumpy effect than was apparent on the drawings. There were no objections to the basic concept of the building and it was approved, with further facade studies to be submitted.

d. S.L. 82-69, Commodore Hotel, 520 North Capitol Street, N. W.; alteration and renovation. The Assistant Secretary noted that this was the second proposal to renovate this hotel, located near Union Station. He showed drawings of the first proposal, approved in March 1981, and then said there had been a change in architects and a new design. He introduced Mr. Buerk, from Perkins and Will, to discuss the proposal. Mr. Buerk said the hotel would be converted to a small, first-class hotel, comparable to the Fairfax; the number of rooms would be reduced from 135 to 84. He said the brick would be cleaned, new sash installed, and a main entrance, vestibule, and canopy added on North Capitol Street. There would also be added some exterior elements: limestone angle quoins and a stepped limestone appliqué in the middle of each facade. Also shown was a limestone column and beam structure in the sidewalk space along Massachusetts Avenue which would become a sidewalk cafe with the addition of an awning.

The cosmetic additions were questioned, especially the stepped forms on the facades. The Chairman and others found the quoins in keeping with the Georgian revival style of the original building, and thought they could help in the upgrading of what was otherwise a building with a rather rudimentary, low-budget look. All agreed, however, that the application of a crudely stepped limestone element in the center of the facades was unacceptable. It was thought that the addition of a sidewalk cafe in this location would be an amenity, but a permanent stone framework was questioned, and with new rules for the erection of these structures now being considered by the City Council, it was decided to take no action at this time. The new sash, main entrance changes, and limestone quoin additions were approved, with Mr. Netsch casting a dissenting vote on the quoins.

e. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 82-57, 1220 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., material selection. The Assistant Secretary recalled the Commission's approval of the design for this infill building at the April 1982 meeting. He said that since then the Georgetown Board had seen and approved a brick panel on the site, but had disapproved the use of polished granite panels at the cornice level and elsewhere on the facade as not being characteristic of brick construction in Georgetown. Robert Glazer, the architect, was then introduced. He said he had chosen granite for the panels because it was close to but not the same as

the brick color, and because it would contribute to the high quality, elegant appearance his clients wanted. He showed both brick and granite samples and noted that the granite now had a honed, rather than polished finish. Mr. Hurd, from W. Bell and Company, confirmed his company's preference for the granite because of its appearance.

The members had no objection to the brick or the granite, providing the latter had a honed finish. It was suggested that this finish could be oiled if it appeared too light. The Chairman cautioned against making the brick mortar too dark, and with these recommendations the material samples were unanimously approved.

E. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

CFA 18/MAY/82-4, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Distinguished Service Medal. Staff member Sue Kohler showed the members a color rendering of this medal; on the obverse was the seal of the agency, based on the Great Seal of the United States, and on the reverse, around the edge, the words "For Distinguished Service" with space for a name. There were no objections to the design and it was unanimously approved.

(Exhibit E)

F. National Park Service

1. CFA 18/MAY/82-5, Motion II, sculpture display in National Park by private citizen. Joseph Ronsisvalle from the Park Service told the members that the proposal to display this piece had come from the artist himself, rather than from another government agency or arts organization. He said the Park Service would like to discuss the proposal with the Commission and showed the members several photographs of the sculpture. The consensus was that it was not a particularly good piece, but more importantly, the members doubted the wisdom of accepting such proposals from private citizens. The Chairman noted that it could open up various kinds of problems--competition among artists, questions of commercial gain, politics, etc. Mr. Ronsisvalle said the Park Service had come to the same conclusion, and he thanked the Commission for its consideration. The project was unanimously disapproved.

(Exhibit F)

2. CFA 18/MAY/82-6, Lincoln Memorial, addition of state names, Hawaii and Alaska. The Assistant Secretary commented that a suitable way to add names of new states to the memorial had been under review for several years. He noted that the Commission had originally approved a suggestion to put the names on the cella walls flanking the entrance, but that other agencies involved in the decision had not approved this. Then, in July 1980, a plaque was approved by the Commission and subsequently by all other agencies. Paul Goeldner from the Park Service was then introduced to discuss the design of the plaque.

Mr. Goldner said four criteria had been recognized from the beginning: (1) the two new states should be represented on or near the memorial; (2) the architectural design of the memorial must be respected; (3) there should be a relationship between the way the new states are represented and the way the others were originally; and (4) it should be recognized that other states might require representation in the future. He said the plaque would be set into the lower terrace, so that the viewer could read the inscription and names and look up at the other state names carved in the frieze. The plaque would be approximately 5 by 5 feet (actually a trapezoid because of the varying axes involved). When asked about materials, Mr. Goeldner said both granite and marble were being considered. The members all thought a granite of slightly lighter color than the terrace material would be preferable, both because of appearance and durability. The Chairman thought a white marble, like the memorial, would be too bright to look down at and also too visible from a distance. There were no objections to the text of the inscription or to the lettering, which will be the same style as that on the memorial, although the Chairman asked that the Commission see the final design for the spacing of the letters. The plaque was unanimously approved.

(Exhibit G)

G. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

CFA 18/MAY/82-8, Fifty cent piece commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, revised design. Elizabeth Jones, Sculptor-Engraver of the United States, and George Schafer, representing the Mint, were introduced to show the members the clay maquette of the obverse of this coin, as requested by the members at the April 1982 meeting. The horse had been redrawn and the head moved farther away from the figure of Washington. The members all thought the design greatly improved and gave it unanimous approval.

(Exhibit H)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

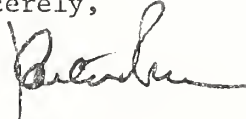
June 7, 1982

Dear Mr. Whitlock:

The Commission of Fine Arts was delighted to review and approve the scaled-down proposals for introduction of retail/restaurant activities to the exterior of the Old Post Office during our May 18, 1982 meeting. We believe that the addition of tables, umbrellas, and the attendant activity will enhance Pennsylvania Avenue as well as the Post Office and its activities within. Doing this without affecting the architectural integrity of the building seems to be the proper course. The Commission specifically has no objection to the additional side doors on the entrance porch, but does feel that clamshell awnings within that already sheltered porch area are unsuitable and out of character with the building and its exterior functional awnings. Rather than applying these interior awnings, we are sure that banners or lighting can make the entrance read as an "invitation" to the excitement of the inner space.

We look forward to reviewing the details as they are developed.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James G. Whitlock
Assistant Regional Administrator
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration (ROB)
7th & D Street, S. W., Room 7911
Washington, D. C. 20407

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Deeded
June 7, 1982

Dear Tom:

The Apex Building addition and renovation project was reviewed by the Commission on May 18, 1982 and given conceptual approval. We are delighted with the project's integration of three historic structures in such a harmonious and modest way. The addition of the infill building and a partial extra floor on the Apex Building enhance the complex without overwhelming it. Our only comment concerns the pediment area of the infill structure, which we feel ought to be more clearly delineated within the existing architectural theme. During our discussion, Mr. Hartman indicated that some restudy of that area was in order because of a program change on the building's interior.

As further details, colors and landscape details are developed, along with the pediment studies mentioned, we look forward to further review and coordination of this project. Though we expect to be advising the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation on the public and semi-public spaces involved, final working drawings and material samples should be reviewed through provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act through the District of Columbia Government Permit Branch. Our staff will be happy to assist with this coordination.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Thomas J. Regan, Jr.
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
425 13th Street, N. W., Suite 1148
Washington, D. C. 20004

June 3, 1982

MEMO:

TO: Commission members

FROM: Charles H. Atherton

Attached are the revised designs for the Presidential Building that the Commission offered to review prior to our next meeting.

Please either make any comments below and return to me in the enclosed envelope at your earliest convenience or call us collect with your reactions, whichever is easiest.

Comments: _____

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 9, 1982

Dear Dr. Merrill:

At your request, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and gave preliminary approval to the proposed landscape and site renovation to the Northwest Campus of Gallaudet College overlooking Rock Creek Park at Kalmia Road, N.W. We also are delighted that the College will be repairing the buildings on the Northwest Campus. Though we will be involved through the Shipstead-Luce Act in the possible future alteration of those buildings, there seems to be none requiring design review at this stage. Thus, subject to resolution of zoning and community relations adjustments, you have our approval of the plans as submitted.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Dr. Edward C. Merrill, Jr.
President
Gallaudet College
7th Street & Florida Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20002

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 7, 1982

Dear Colonel Allen:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a design for a Distinguished Service Medal for the Federal Emergency Management Agency at its meeting on May 18, 1982. I am happy to tell you that it was approved.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Colonel Richard H. Allen
Director, The Institute of Heraldry
United States Army, Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 9, 1982

Dear Jack:

The Commission was glad to consider your letter of May 13, 1982 regarding the temporary placement of a piece of privately owned sculpture on parkland. We discussed the matter at our meeting on May 18, and were unanimous in concluding the Park Service should not grant the request.

We believe that the display of individual works by private sponsors is inconsistent with the public interest of our parks. Such displays could be construed by the public as self serving or promotional ventures on the part of the artist, the owner, the artist's dealer. Even if this were not the case, it is very probable that the Park Service would soon be asked to consider many similar requests, and it would be most difficult to know where to draw the line.

The Commission is not opposed to the temporary placement of sculpture when there is a convincing element of public interest that is being served, such as the program conducted a couple of years ago during the International Sculpture Convention. Although the display may not have been appreciated by everyone, it represented a broad range of work by many artists, and was clearly not intended to promote the work of either one individual, or similarly, a small faction or limited group of artists.

The Commission's advice in this is not to be construed as a comment on the artistic merits of this particular work. That of course is not what is at issue here; rather it is the principle involved in the proper use of public parkland in the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 9, 1982

Dear Jack:

Paul Goeldner and Joe Ronsisvalle of your staff discussed the latest studies for placing the names of the States of Alaska and Hawaii at the Lincoln Memorial at our May 18, 1982 meeting. Though aware of the difficulty of any alteration to the original design of the memorial, we are enthusiastic about the concept of a terrace plaque and feel that the proposal not only accomplishes the recognition of the newest states, but calls attention to the others on the attic frieze of the Memorial and allows appropriate future additions.

The material of the plaque ought not be too white, because of the way it will catch light being on a horizontal surface. Yet making it different from the paving is equally important. We suggest that a light grey granite be investigated to provide a good wearing surface and the right tone. The Commission will be happy to look at samples on the site and to assist with actual selection.

Another caution would be in the fine art of incised lettering and its spacing. We realize that there are certain spacing techniques present on the Memorial which may be less than ideal owing to space constraints, but the opportunities on a plaque especially designed for lettering are different. Though we agree that the style of letter should be the same in the new work as on the attic story, additional refinement would greatly enhance the final design.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Mamus J. Fish
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE FEDERAL UNION OF THE STATES
AT THE HEART OF LINCOLN'S PURPOSE
IS SYMBOLIZED IN HIS MEMORIAL
BY 36 COLUMNS BENEATH THE NAMES
OF THE 36 STATES COMPOSING THE
UNION IN HIS LIFETIME ✓ WHEN
THE MEMORIAL WAS DESIGNED THE
UNION INCLUDED THE 48 STATES
NAMED ON THE ATTIC FRIEZE ✓
A GENERATION LATER · IN 1959

ALASKA AND HAWAII

ATTAINED STATEHOOD · FULLY
JOINING THEIR DESTINIES WITH
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

E PLURIBUS UNUM

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

mailed 6/1

June 7, 1982

Dear Mr. Frere:

At its meeting on May 18, 1982 the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a clay maquette of a revised design for the obverse of the half dollar coin commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The members found the design much improved, and I am happy to tell you that it received unanimous approval.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Francis B. Frere
Assistant Director of the
Mint for Marketing
Bureau of the Mint
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20220

